
News Release



UNITED
STATES
GOVERNMENT
PRINTING
OFFICE

Office Of Congressional, Legislative And Public Affairs

202-512-1991

<http://www.access.gpo.gov>

For Release: IMMEDIATE
February 23, 1999

Contact: John Chapman
202-512-0376
jchapman@gpo.gov
No. 99-4

GPO DEVELOPS NEW STREAMLINED PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES

Simplified Purchase Agreements Will Cut Costs, Expand Procurement Opportunities

The Government Printing Office (GPO) has developed a new streamlined printing procurement process for use by Federal agencies. This process, called the "simplified purchase agreement," will provide streamlined procurement procedures for Federal agencies to acquire printing and information products and services up to \$2,500 in value from local commercial sources. Agencies using simplified purchase agreements will cut their administrative costs and expand procurement opportunities for local small businesses.

The Department of Energy's Savannah River Operations Office is working as a partner with GPO to finalize the criteria for a pilot test of the new procedure. Initial operation of the pilot is expected to begin later this spring. GPO will also work with other customer agencies to develop simplified purchase agreements suitable to their specific needs.

In announcing the coming availability of simplified purchase agreements, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario said, "We're very pleased to offer this innovative new procurement process to Federal agencies. Working in partnership with America's printing industry, this is another example of how GPO is continuing to help Federal agencies to work better and cost less—to obtain the greatest possible value for their printing and information product dollars."

Simplified purchase agreements will be a GPO procurement option for agencies to use for small local purchases, providing them with the maximum possible convenience

and control. Simplified purchase agreements will allow agencies to directly place their orders for printing and information products on the basis of “best value,” a concept embracing price and other factors such as responsiveness, business practices, convenience, courtesy, attention to detail. The agreements also allow agencies to take into account elements of past performance such as work quality, reliability, and schedule compliance.

The new process assures fair and reasonable prices and allows for use of the Government Paper Specification Standards and GPO’s Quality Assurance Through Attributes Program (QATAP), ensuring continued consistency, compliance with established standards, and quality control in the Government’s printing and information products. In addition, simplified purchase agreements alleviate an administrative burden on Federal agencies by providing for GPO payment to printing contractors. GPO will also maintain a detailed accounting of all work performed under simplified purchase agreements.

The new streamlined procurement process provides other benefits as well. Use of the simplified purchase agreement process for buying exceptional or infrequent items will facilitate the development of more focused direct deal term contracts for agencies, resulting in lower prices. It will provide local small businesses with a vehicle through which they can market their services directly to Federal agencies. Agency use of simplified purchase agreements will also help combat the problem of “fugitive documents” by ensuring that products ordered against the agreement are included in GPO’s Federal Depository Library Program, unless agencies indicate the products are only for internal administrative use or have no public or educational value.

**United States Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20401**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use, \$300
Stop LP**

Postage and Fees Paid
GPO
Permit No. G-26

FIRST-CLASS MAIL